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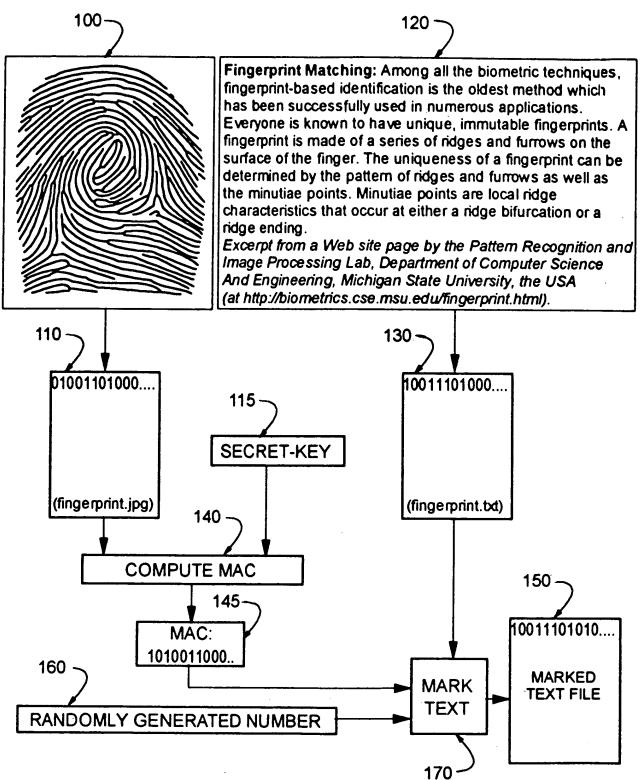


FIG.1



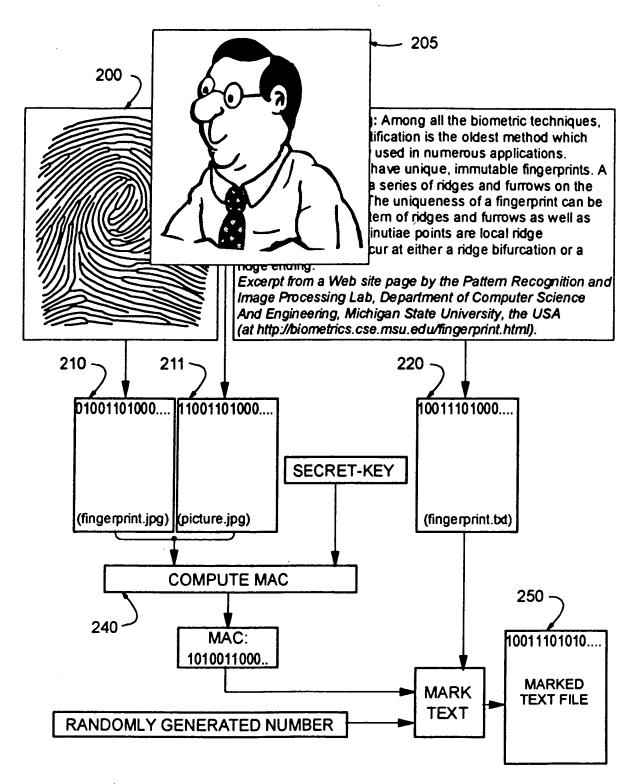


FIG.2

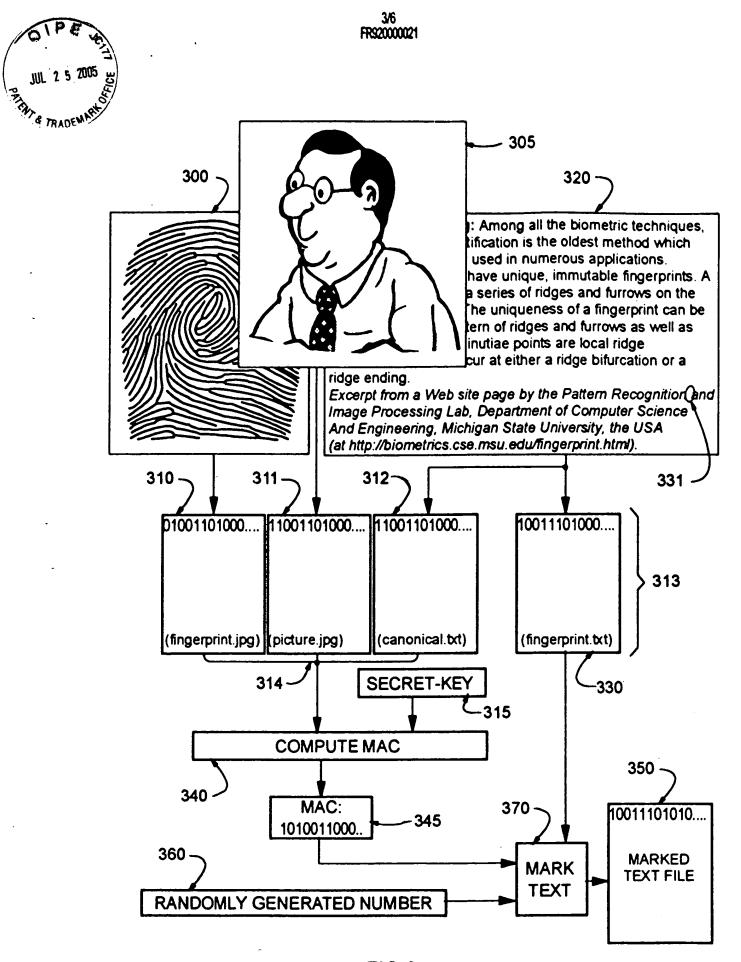
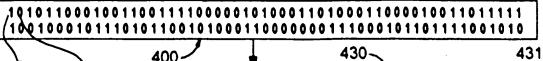
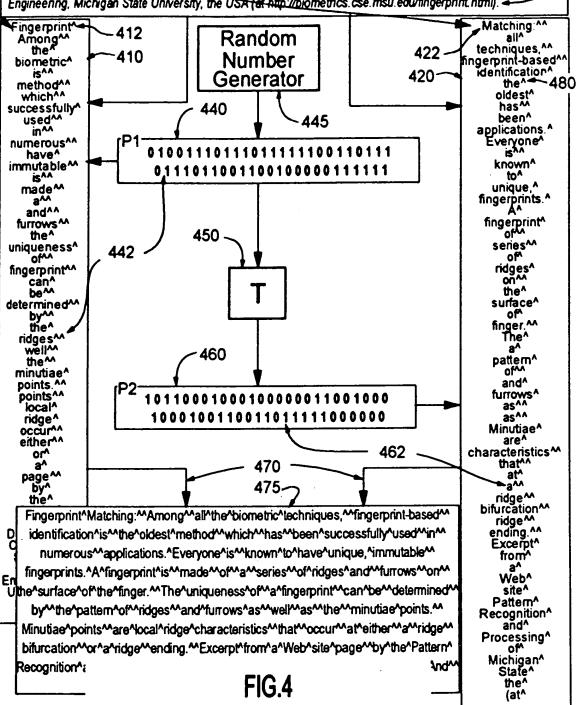


FIG.3





Fingerprint Matching: Among all the bicimetric techniques, fingerprint-based identification is the oldest method which has been successfully used in numerous applications. Everyone is known to have unique, immutable fingerprints. A fingerprint is made of a series of ridges and furrows on the surface of the finger. The uniqueness of a fingerprint can be determined by the pattern of ridges and furrows as well as the minutiae points. Minutiae points are local ridge characteristics that occur at either a ridge bifurcation or a ridge ending. Excerpt from a Web site page by the Pattern Recognition and Image Processing Lab, Department of Computer Science And Engineering, Michigan State University, the USA (at http://biometrics.cse.msu.edu/fingerprint.html).





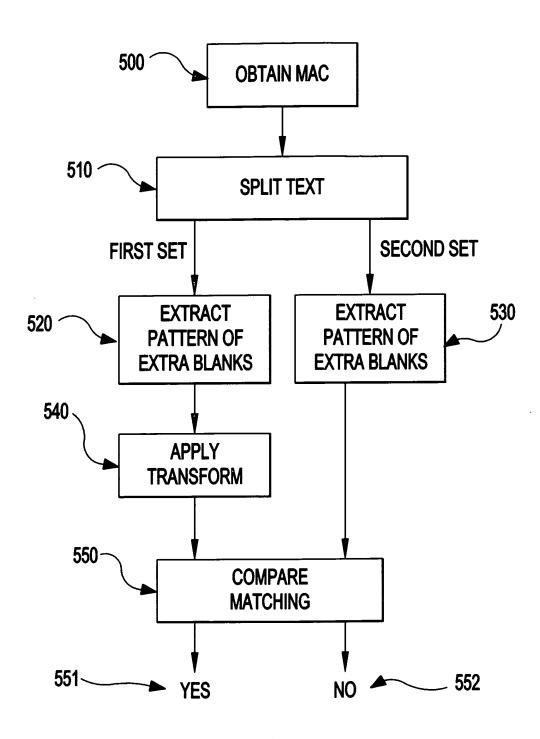


FIG.5



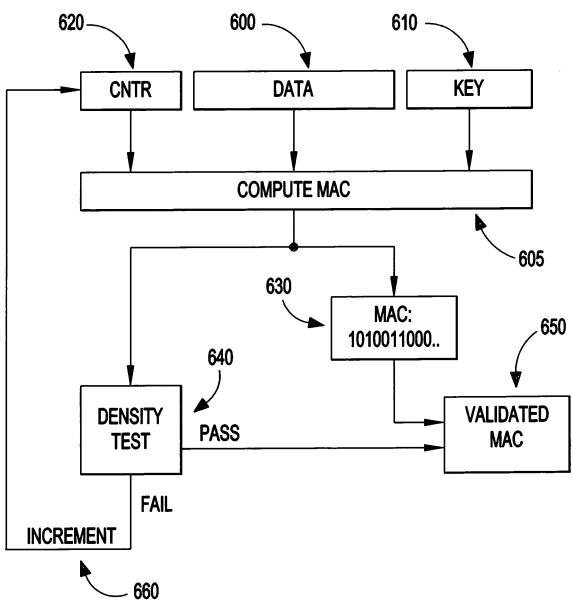


FIG.6